

Frankfort

COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 157-C

January 14, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Ms. Victoria J. Rutson, Chief,
Section of Environmental Analysis
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to you regarding the CN purchase of the EJ and E Railroad. The EJ and E Railroad has numerous crossings in our school district. Our school district has serious concerns with this purchase. Please note the points below:

SAFETY:

We are very concerned that this purchase will result in very unsafe conditions for our children. Currently we have 7 crossings in our school district. With a major increase of trains on these rails we will increase unsafe conditions throughout the district.

We are a fast growing school district and we are expected to expand from 2,400 students to 4,000 by 2014. Major enrollment increases will magnify this problem.

One of our crossings does not even have gates (116th Street just north of Laraway Road) to protect our children and buses. Just to the north of the 116th St. crossing we have a development of homes going in that will bring in approximately 450 new students that will be crossing this dangerous set of rails to get to and from school.

TRANSPORTATION AND TIME DELAYS:

It has been reported that if this sale goes through, train traffic in our community will increase from 8 trains per day to 31 trains per day. We operate 3 schools of 800 children which are all on different starting and ending times. To accommodate the children of these schools it requires 6 complete runs of the school district per day. In addition to this we have an extended day kindergarten program that dismisses at 1:30 p.m. which requires another run of the district. Add to this 2 more runs per day when the high school buses will come in contact with these crossings. This totals 9 times per day that the schools will need to cross all of these tracks. I think you can see that with 31 trains per day there will be major delays that will negatively impact school starting times, children waiting on corners, student's arrival home and instruction.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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Frankfort, Illinois 60423-2235
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GRAND PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

10480 W. Nebraska Street
Frankfort, Illinois 60423-2235
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CHELSEA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

22265 South 80th Avenue
Frankfort, Illinois 60423-9786
(815) 469-2309
Fax (815) 464-2043

HICKORY CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

22150 116th Avenue
Frankfort, Illinois 60423-9064
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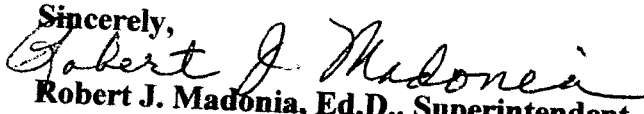


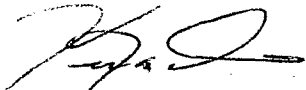
TRANSPORATION OF MATERIALS (INCLUDING DANGEROUS MATERIALS) INCREASE

It is projected that the average amount of tons shipped per day would jump from 35,375 to 226,994. There also would be a surge in the number of cars carrying hazardous materials, with more than 400 each year rolling on the EJ and E, an increase of more than 350 percent. We are again concerned with safety, potential traffic jams from trains blocking roads, police unable to reach the other side of town to service our schools and student patients seriously at risk in ambulances after the drivers could not reach hospitals in time to service their needs.


We hope you will give our comments serious consideration.


Sincerely,



Robert J. Madonia, Ed.D., Superintendent



Kent David, Board Vice President


Mary Coffey, Board Member


Pat Usher, Board Member


Courtney Stillman, Board President


Brian Klene, Board Secretary


Larry Heidemann, Board Member


Angelo Barone, Board Member